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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS - 35

OCTOBER 14, 1945

## ADVANCING LAND MARKET IN APPALACHIAN REGION

Survey of 4 years of wartime land market (1941-44) in 17 Appalachian counties showed that the number of voluntary sales increased from 1,754 in 1941 to 2,475 in 1944, an increase of 41 percent. In the four years total acreage transferred increased from 154,388 to 206,309 acres or 34 percent. During the period about 16 percent of all the farms in the counties were transferred and about 18 percent of the total land in farms. The average price paid per acre advanced from \$38 in 1941 to \$45 in 1942, \$49 in 1943, and \$57 in 1944. Something over half of the transfers were for cash and this proportion did not change much. Buyers in the 17 counties incurred indebtedness of 2 million dollars for land bought in 1941 and 3.8 million dollars in 1944. The total consideration was 5.6 million dollars in 1941 and 10.9 million dollars in 1944. In 1941, 85 percent of the properties went to farmer buyers, compared with only 70 percent to farmer buyers in 1944.

## FARM POPULATION DECLINING - NON-FARM UP

The trend of U. S. population is shown in the following figures, all stated in millions. At the beginning of 1945 total population 138.9 million, farm population 25.2 million, non-farm population 113.8 million. Beginning of 1940 total population 131.5, farm population 30.3, non-farm 101.2. In 1930 total 122.4, farm 30.2, non-farm 92.2. In 1920 total 105.7, farm 31.6, non-farm 74.1. In 1910 total 91.4, farm 32.1, non-farm 59.3.

## AMPLE FOOD AND FEED GRAINS

Total production of food grains this year 37 million tons, 2 million more than ever produced before. This includes a wheat crop of 1,150 million bushels and rice 72 million bushels.

Total tonnage of feed grain crops likely to be about 121 million tons. Supply of feed grains now on farms, including October 1 stocks of corn, barley and oats, totals 123 million tons, 2 million over last year but 6 million under peak in 1942. But supplies per animal unit appear to be slightly larger than last year and the largest in the 20 years of record. In this total, however, there will be considerable soft corn.

Production of all feed crops, including big hay crop and fairly large tonnage of sorghum forage, promises to be second largest of record.

## TOTAL LIVESTOCK OUTPUT LARGE

Total production of livestock and its products in 1945 appears about like last year and about 5 percent below record in 1943. Farm production of cattle, hogs, sheep and poultry, based on numbers and marketing weights, indicated about 45 billion pounds, live weight. This would be about 6 billion pounds below record of 1943 and slightly less than last year or 1942, but larger than in any other year.

## MORE BEEF ON THE HOOF

Number of cattle on feed for market in the Corn Belt August 1 reported 16 percent greater than year previous but was smallest number that date in all other years since 1937.

Number of cattle slaughtered under Federal inspection, during September, 1,357,682, compared with 1,310,310 year previous. Total number of cattle slaughtered January-September 10.4 millions compared with 9.9 millions in like period last year. Number of calves slaughtered January-September 4.8 millions, compared with 5.3 millions last year.

## MORE MILK PER COW

Milk production for the year likely to hit 123 billion pounds. Output for first 9 months 97.2 billion pounds, 4 billion over like period last year. Milk production in September 9.8 billion pounds, compared with 9.3 billion year ago. Increase over last year reflects heavy grain feeding and much better pasture. Cow numbers are slightly below last year, hence increased milk output results from higher yields per cow. Average milk production per cow reported 13.83 pounds on October 1, compared with 13.24 pounds a year ago. Daily quantity of grain fed per cow 3.59 pounds, about 7 percent more than year ago and 12 percent more than two years ago.

## EGG PRODUCTION

### WELL MAINTAINED

Hens laid 3,422 million eggs in September, 3 percent under last year but 37 percent above previous 10-year average. Egg production during first 9 months this year 45,709 million eggs, 5 percent under last year but 36 percent above average. Rate of production 10.6 eggs per hen during September, compared with 10.3 last year and 9.3 average. Number of layers in farm flocks averaged 322 million birds during September, 6 percent under last year but 20 percent above average. Number of

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE SEPT. 15 1945
	AUG. 15 1945	SEPT. 15 1945	
Wheat, bu. . . . .	dol.	1.45	1.45
Corn, bu. . . . .	dol.	1.13	1.12
Oats, bu. . . . .	dol.	.59	.58
Cotton, lb. . . . .	ct.	21.33	21.72
Potatoes, bu. . . . .	dol.	1.67	1.38
Hogs, 100 lb. . . . .	dol.	14.00	14.10
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . .	dol.	12.50	12.00
Veal calves, 100 lb. . .	dol.	13.80	13.40
Lambs, 100 lb. . . . .	dol.	13.00	12.40
Butterfat, lb. . . . .	ct.	50.3	50.3
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. .	dol.	3.14	3.20
Chickens, live, 1 lb. . .	ct.	28.6	27.5
Eggs, doz. . . . .	ct.	40.8	39.6

<sup>1</sup>Adjusted for seasonal variation.

all young chickens October 1 estimated 506 million birds, 14 percent more than year ago and 28 percent above average. Number of pullets October 1 was 369 million, 7 percent more than year ago and 29 percent above average. Hens one year old or older 213 million, 6 percent less than last year but 18 percent above average. Total number of potential layers (all hens and pullets of all ages) 583 million, compared with 573 million last year and 467 million average (1934-43).

#### LARGE STOCKS OF GRAIN ON FARMS

Stocks of wheat on farms October 1 estimated 539 million bushels, compared with 532 million last year and 378 million for the 1934-43 average. Stocks of oats 1,318 million bushels, compared with 951 million last year and 875 million average. Corn for grain (old crop) 307 million bushels, compared with 207 million last year and 327 million average. Soybeans (old crop) 3 million bushels, compared with 4.8 million last year.

#### SHORT SUPPLY OF FATS AND OILS

Civilian supplies of fats and oils are smallest in many years. Total civilian use in 1945 estimated 8.5 billion pounds or around 65 pounds per capita, compared with average of 74 pounds per capita in 1937-41. Small pig crop and less flaxseed last year large factors in decline. Lard output in 1945 will be at least one billion pounds less than last year, greases over 100 million pounds less. Total production of fats and oils in 1945 expected about 9.5 billion pounds, compared with wartime peak of 10.8 billion in both 1943 and 1944. Exports of fats and oils from the United States last year 1.6 billion pounds; will be much smaller 1945. August 1 stocks of fats and oils 1,751 million pounds, about 400 million less than year previous.

#### HELP SCARCE - WAGES HIGH

Number of workers on farms October 1 was 11,052,000, down about 7 percent from the 11,839,000 a year earlier. Number of hired workers 2,494,000, compared with 2,911,000 year previous. Decreases in hired labor were large in all regions; largest decrease 27 percent was in West Northcentral Region. Smaller cotton crop also accounted for 26 percent less hired labor in the South. Number of family workers 8,558,000, compared with 8,928,000 a year ago. Most regions had fewer familyworkers employed than last year.

Farm wage rates stood at 345 percent of the 1910-14 average. Average wage per day, without board, for the United States \$4.39. The range was from a high of \$8.80 in the State of Washington to a low of \$2.30 a day in South Carolina.

#### MARKETING MARGINS

Changes for marketing a family market basket of farm food products declined slightly from \$231 in July to \$230 in August. Marketing charges in August included \$17 of Government payments to marketing agencies, compared with \$18 in July and \$11 in August 1944. Retail cost of the market basket to consumers was \$465 in August, compared with \$464 in July. Payments to farmers for equivalent quantities of products were \$252 in August and \$251 in July.

The farmer's share of the consumer's dollar spent for farm food products was 54 cents in August, which has been the figure through virtually all of 1945.

#### FARM INCOME

Total farm receipts from products sold during August 1,878 million dollars, compared with 1,741 million dollars year previous. This includes Government payments in August 50 million dollars, compared with 51 million dollars year previous. Farm income for 8 months January-August 12,932 million dollars, compared with 12,567 million dollars in like period last year. These figures include 589 million dollars Government payments this year against 606 million dollars last year.

#### GOOD SUPPLY OF CANNED FRUITS

The 1945-46 pack of commercially canned fruits expected to be about 1.9 billion pounds, compared with 2.1 billion pounds in the previous peak year. About three-fifths of pack expected to consist of peaches, pears and fruit cocktail. Total supplies of canned fruits, including domestic and imports of pineapples and olives and stocks carried over from last year.

indicated about 2.8 billion pounds, compared with pre-war average (1935-39) supplies of about 2.5 billion pounds. Military and foreign requirements will still take a large cut out of the supply.

#### LARGE GRAPE CROP

This year's crop of grapes indicated 2,801,900 tons, fresh basis, based on condition August 1. This would be second only to the record crop of 2,972,900 tons in 1943. It is 2 percent larger than the 1944 crop and 13 percent larger than the 10-year average (1934-43). The crop is larger than last year in the West but smaller in the East. Approximately 2,670,000 tons or 95 percent of this year's crop is in California.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	SEPT. 1945
Prices received by farmers . . .	1910-14 = 100	197
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	174
Parity ratio . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	113
Wholesale prices of food . . .	1910-14 = 100	162
Retail prices of food . . . .	1910-14 = 100	<sup>1</sup> 182
Farm wage rates . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	<sup>1</sup> 340
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	<sup>2</sup> 419
RATIOS	LONG-TIME SEPT.-AVERAGE	SEPT. 1945
Hog-corn ratio, U. S. . . . .	11.9	12.6
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. .	24.4	27.9
Milk-feed ratio, U. S. . . .	1.27	1.39
Egg-feed ratio, U. S. . . .	13.7	13.5
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN.-AUG. 1944	JAN.-AUG. 1945
Milk, (Bil. lb.) . . . . .	83.6	87.4
Eggs, (Bil.) . . . . .	44.6	42.3
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . .	4,281	4,646
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) .	555	598
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) . . .	9,330	5,358
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	14,660	11,045

<sup>1</sup> June figure.  
<sup>2</sup> Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. June figure.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142 - Branch 4407.